Summary of visit inspection of Rainbow on the 28/10/08

A group of Ulema were taken to Hammarsdale – Rainbow plant for an inspection in loco. The production manager Mr Mathew spoke to us then there was the guided inspection and a small Mashwara amongst Ulema present chaired by Mufti Seeraj Desai of P.E.

Important points:-

1) 4 Million Chickens slaughtered daily in S.A.
2) 275,000 chickens slaughtered in Hammarsdale – Rainbow plant
3) If target is not met, line speed is not increased but shortfall made up by working on Saturday
4) Procedure of slaughter is as follows – slaughter No 1 slaughters chicken, No 1, No 2 – No 2, No 3 - No 3, No 4 – No 4 then No 1 slaughters chicken No 5. This was physically observed. A 5th slaughterer is on stand by to relieve any one who may withdraw for any reason, the slaughters cannot hear each other thus this talk of 'double up' as is cover up for me, I have missed a bird does not exist.
5) Shifts are of 9 hours. But not continuously work, slaughter for ½ Hour then rest for ½ Hour.
6) In their break may make Salaat, rest, shower, eat, sleep etc.
7) The helpless bird is hung shackled upside down before shunning moved along a convey or at +_, 150 birds per minute.
8) Stated that they cannot increase line speed more that 155 per minute – the machine mechanism does not allow that.
9) The defenceless birds head is emerged in a water tank which has electric current passing in it to stun the bird into 'calmness', ready for slaughter. There are about +_ 30 birds in this stunning tank at any given time.
10) If bird dies in tank, the slaughterer will recognise that and pluck it from the belt to be sent off to be later used after mixing with wheat, flour as chicken feed.
11) After slaughtering the birds go into a 'bleeding tank' wherein for 90 seconds they are allowed to bleed.
12) Then as we saw in most cases put in hot water 'alive' to be de-feathered by rubber rotating mechanisms.
13) We were allowed to move about freely.
14) We inspected the change rooms of the slaughterers. They have, Salaat and Shower and toilet facilities. They have microwaves to heat or prepare there own food.
15) All birds coming off this plant are slaughtered as per Islaamic requirements.
16) Slaughterers by their internal mutual agreement alternate for Jumuah and Eid Salaats.
17) As for we could humanly observe 'Tasmiyyah' was been recited with lip movement.
18) After inspection a small 'Mashwara' was made in which
    a) No objection was voiced about the permissibility of the product;
    b) But objection on the stunning and life before de-feathering were raised;
    c) All comments, complaints and suggestions be made via Sanha who will use the necessary channels to address these;
    d) I once again suggested that the so called 'opposition' group be invited to inspect as all agree on the transparency of the operation. This was not heeded to sadly.
19) No permission for surprise visitors was allowed even if they be Sanha members who are not supervisors – prior arrangements have to be made.
20) No guarantee can be given that other plants function along Hammarsdale Rainbow standards.
21) A company called 'capacity' is contracted by Rainbow to employ the slaughterers; they have their own 2 supervisors. One near the slaughterers, the other walking. So does Sanha. Thus you have in Rainbow – capacity and Sanha on site also.

22) Rainbow’s claim is that although they are allowed 50 birds per minute and whilst the norm is 45 per minute they function at a speed of 35 per minute.

The above is a summary. Our comments can be read in a letter to Sanha.
Servant of Allaah.
Mufti (A.H.) Elias